

February 26, 2003

Marlene Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth St., S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service,  
CC Docket No. 96-45**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Mark Rubin of Western Wireless, Michael Stern of US Cellular Corp. and I, made a presentation on February 23rd to Billy Jack Gregg, a member of the Federal-State Universal Service Joint Board.

We addressed the issues raised in the *Referral Order* regarding competitive universal service in the docket referred to above, FCC 02-307 (released Nov. 8, 2002) and the questions that were raised by the Joint Board in a subsequent public notice (released on February 7, 2003; FCC No. 03J-1) in the same proceeding. We left behind the attached (2) documents.

If you have any questions, then please feel free to call me at 425-586-8736.

Respectfully submitted,

James Blundell  
Director of External Affairs  
Western Wireless Corp.